

Dulles Helped Defend Nation

CPYRGHT

Allen W. Dulles, who died last week after a long career in diplomacy and intelligence, was an anti-hero to America's young dissidents.

Before he retired in 1961, he directed the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which was created in 1947 as an outgrowth of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), an agency that performed espionage and sabotage functions during World War II.

The CIA is generally regarded as an instrument of the devil by those critics who believe that American foreign policy is provocative and aggressive.

But it was created out of a belief that the U.S. was far behind most other countries in the business of finding out what potential enemies are up

to that might adversely affect security.

Few people know how big the CIA network is or all that it does. There is an awful lot of uninformed guessing. Likely it does some things most Americans would not approve. But it is hard to question the value of its information-gathering function on which hard decisions are made by the President and the National Security Council.

Dulles was a scholarly man who did not fit the image of a superspy. His career included World War II and Cold War diplomatic and intelligence triumphs which had important and direct bearing on the nation's security.

He contributed to the defense of his country in a way that can never be fully understood.